



News Release

National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Office of Inspector General
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For Release
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Former NASA Contractor Employee Sentenced

On April 19, 2000, Vernon R. Baake, a former employee of Lockheed Martin Space Operations, a NASA prime contractor at Kennedy Space Center, Florida, was sentenced in U.S. District Court, Middle District of Florida, Orlando, FL on one count of accepting kickbacks, a violation of Title 41, United States Code, Section 53. Baake was sentenced to one year of probation, fined \$2,000 and ordered to pay a \$50 special assessment. On March 29, 2000, Baake voluntarily paid restitution to NASA in the amount of \$10,000.

On January 11, 2000, Baake pled guilty to accepting kickbacks after he illegally provided information to a computer maintenance company which resulted in the award of a NASA subcontract. Baake received \$10,000 from the subcontractor for his assistance. The funds were paid directly to a local Brevard County, FL marine dealer to pay for maintenance on Baake's boat.

The investigation was conducted by Special Agents of the NASA Office of Inspector General and the IRS Criminal Investigation Division. The prosecution of this matter was handled by Assistant United States Attorney Cynthia Collazo, Middle District of Florida, Orlando Division, (407) 648-7500.

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